

GAA Oral History Project

Interview Report Form

Name of Interviewer	Regina Fitzpatrick
Date of Interview	12 th Feb 2012
Location	Ara Coeli, Armagh City
Name of Interviewee (Maiden name / Nickname)	Cardinal Seán Brady
<u>Biographical Summary of Interviewee</u>	
Gender	Male
Born	Year Born: 1939 Home County: Cavan
Education	Primary: Caulfield NS, Laragh, Cavan Secondary: St Patrick's College, Cavan Third Level: St. Patrick's College, Maynooth; College of Rome; Lateran University, Rome
Family	N/A
Club(s)	N/A
Occupation	Arch-Bishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland
Parents' Occupation	N/A
Religion	Roman Catholic
Political Affiliation / Membership	N/A
Other Club/Society Membership(s)	N/A

Date of Report	23 rd May 2012
Period Covered	1940's – 2011
Counties/Countries Covered	Cavan, Armagh, Kerry, Tyrone, Europe, Italy, Americas, New York
Key Themes Covered	Travel, Supporting, Grounds, Playing, Training, Administration, Celebrations, Religion, Involvement in the GAA abroad, Role of Clergy, Role of teachers, Volunteers, GAA Abroad, Rivalries, Scór, All-Ireland, Earliest Memories, Northern Ireland, The Troubles, Relationship with the Association
Interview Summary	<p>00:43 Speaks of his early days in Laragh in Cavan and developing an interest in the GAA in the 1940's. Mentions the 1947 All-Ireland and listening to Cavan versus Kerry in the Polo grounds. Also mentions PJ Duke being from the parish.</p> <p>01:21 Talks of the house being packed and the radio being in the window and the children outside.</p> <p>02:10 Speaks about Michael O'Hare and his commentating generating interest in the GAA. Talks of his first visit to Croke Park in 1950 when Cavan were playing in a League final against New York.</p> <p>03:12 Recalls becoming a boarder in Saint Pat's in 1952 when Cavan contested both the Senior and Minor All-Ireland final, winning the Senior against Meath. Mentions the brother of one of the Cavan players being in school with him and of gaining a nickname 'Gunner' after Phil Brady the hero of Cavan.</p> <p>04:25 Tells of his parents going to Cavan in the horse and trap to buy a football and eagerly awaiting their return.</p> <p>05:10 Talks of being on the school teams that contested the Corn na nÓg. Tells how on one occasion the captain let the cup fall out of the bus in Armagh and had to go back for it.</p> <p>05:47 Recalls travelling by train to Armagh for a Mac Rory cup match during which the referee died.</p> <p>06:07 Talks of his family having an interest in the GAA but not playing. His father was a runner.</p> <p>07:11 Speaks of the media and how they spurred the interest in the GAA.</p> <p>07:42 Discusses the part played by Gaelic games in Saint Patrick's in Cavan. Mentions it being a relief to the tough</p>

	<p>regime within the college. Also mentions getting into Breffni park for free.</p> <p>09:11 Talks of the friendships built up on those Corn na nÓg teams. Mentions winning a Corn na nÓg medal and Fr Gardin and Fr Mallin.</p> <p>10:55 Speaks about going to Maynooth for three years and being part of a class team there. After this he went to Rome for seven years and played very little.</p> <p>11:56 Talks about the regulations surrounding student priests playing Gaelic games. Mentions John Wilson a Maynooth student who played for Cavan. Talks of the class rivalries between the students. Does not recall any other seminaries playing against them. Also mentions a captain being appointed but little other involvement of administrators.</p> <p>15:40 Speaks of going home for the summer and his club getting him to play for Cavan Gaels.</p> <p>17:07 Talks of playing in Rome and the difficulty in finding a pitch. Mentions there being an Augustinian team, Franciscan team and others.</p> <p>18:31 Talks of training college, club and minor teams. Mentions Eglis, Ardbeo, Donaghmore and Killeevy</p> <p>19:17 Speaks of keeping in touch with the GAA at home while in Rome. Mentions playing on pitches belonging to the Knights of Columbus in Rome.</p> <p>20:20 Tells of the Aer Lingus team that came out to Rome to play. Mentions playing basketball in the Irish College in Rome.</p> <p>21:02 Talks of Martin O'Donohue taking him to matches in the 1950's when he was young. Mentions trains and trucks taking people to matches in the 1940's.</p> <p>22:43 Tells of one young boy who held the players in such high place that when he saw 'Gunner' Brady in clothes he said that he thought he was always togged out. Mentions the tragedy of PJ Duke dying and Pádraig Purcell who wrote a song about Duke. Also mentions John Joe Reilly dying and attending the funerals.</p> <p>25:11 Speaks about getting involved in the school teams on his return to Saint Pat's. Mentions playing against Saint Coleman's and Maghera.</p> <p>26:17 Talks of the college team winning the Hogan Cup under</p>
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	<p>Fr. Benny Maguire.</p> <p>27:00 Tells of the local club becoming Laragh United Saint Brigids and winning several championships.</p> <p>27:13 Talks of being involved in the Cavan Minor and Senior Boards.</p> <p>27:26 Recalls being in Belfast at Congress when the ban was lifted in 1971.</p> <p>29:06 Talks of the GAA at county board level and enjoying the work.</p> <p>30:07 Speaks of the volunteerism and how it is so important and the problem with becoming a professional organisation and having to pay everyone involved.</p> <p>31:33 Talks of what he took from the GAA into his personal and work life. Speaks of being appointed to Central Council. Mentions learning to have respect for teammates and opponents.</p> <p>33:26 Tells how the medals don't mean that much but the memories and loyalties do. Mentions how involvement in the GAA made for better relations with students and teachers.</p> <p>35:00 Talks of the difficulty of selecting a team when only 13 were required. Mentions Monsignor Fall and Monsignor Mac an tSagart.</p> <p>36:06 Speaks of the links with the clergy over the years but not now as the numbers simply aren't there. Mentions Fr. Tony Maher, Archbishop Croke and Archbishop Clifford. Also mentions the Church appreciating the assistance of the GAA and their level of commitment.</p> <p>38:00 Talks of the interlinks between the Church and GAA with various masses for different occasions.</p> <p>38:26 Tells of his essay on the similar value systems between the Church and the GAA. The building of community and participation and sharing the joy.</p> <p>41:57 Speaks about his short time on Central Council and how the time commitment could clash with parish work. Mentions the links that bind within the GAA.</p> <p>44:05 Talks of being made welcome at club matches but of having very little time to attend due to a busy work schedule. Mentions attending only one match last year. Also mentions that if Armagh was playing Cavan he would probably cheer</p>
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	<p>for one and pray for the other.</p> <p>45:51 Talks of missing being involved in teams and not knowing the players very well now.</p> <p>46:51 Speaks of the GAA as being an integral part of being Irish and how it has grown over the years. Mentions Mick Loftus and temperance and the skills for life that are learned and transferred into family life.</p> <p>49:40 Talks of the difficult road for the GAA throughout the Troubles and the conditions they had to face. Mentions the challenges that are faced. Also mentions how the names of clubs being associated with Republicans does not help the situation although this is not necessarily the intention.</p> <p>52:35 Speaks of how Church and GAA were traditionally held up as pillars of Irish life and how this has been affected by scandals. Mentions the relationship between clubs and clergy. Also mentions trust having to be earned.</p> <p>54:43 Tells of the biggest changes in the GAA during his lifetime being the change in coaching and the professionalism of the association.</p> <p>55:12 Talks of his happiest memories of the GAA being the time when Saint Pat's held the MacRory, Corn na nOg and the Rannafast Cups. Mentions that perhaps no one memory should be singled out.</p> <p>56:15 Speaks of how the GAA forms part of who he is although it was over two decades only.</p> <p>57:09 Tells of his disappointment of losing the MacRory cup final and other matches. Mentions the sad story of his cousin Lawrence Brady on the Cavan Under 21 team who had his neck broken during a match in Dungannon against Tyrone.</p> <p>58:33 Speaks of the life of the clergy being somewhat solitary and how the GAA can improve this. Mentions fitting in because of the links to the GAA.</p> <p>01:00:04 Pays tribute to the work of the Association and the friendships made and the bonding of Irish people and wishes the GAA well while applauding those dedicated people involved.</p>
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Involvement in GAA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Supporter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Player <input type="checkbox"/> Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coach <input type="checkbox"/> Steward <input type="checkbox"/> Chairperson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Member <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds-person <input type="checkbox"/> Caterer <input type="checkbox"/> Jersey Washer <input type="checkbox"/> Referee <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify): _____
Record as a Player (Titles won; Length of time played)	Played football with Killenkere and won Cavan Minor Championship 1956; Played with Sons of O'Connell, Laragh and Cavan Gaels. Member of Cavan Senior football panel.
Record as an Administrator (Positions held; how long for)	Member of Cavan County Board. Cavan Representative on Central Council, 1980.
Format	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio <input type="checkbox"/> Audio-Visual
Duration	Length of Interview: 1:01:14
Language	English

To be filled in by Interviewer:

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Signed: Regina Fitzpatrick

Date: 23rd May 2012.